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Oral History Interview

Kay Quinlan

August 7, 2014

Interviewed by Marie Scatena

Q: Today is August 7, 2014, and my name is Marie Scatena, and I'm sitting with Kay Quinlan in her beautiful home at 1550 North Lakeshore Drive, and we're going to be discussing her memories of working with Richard J. Daley. So Kay, for the record, could you tell us your name and when and where you were born?

Kay: My name is really Catherine Quinlan, but everybody knows me by Kay. Especially when I worked in the Hall everybody knew Kay and Kay. And I grew up on the South Side, went to Catholic schools. Then, after I graduated high school, I went to DePaul for maybe nine months for secretarial skills. And that was about it for my education.

My mother and father were from Ireland, and they believed in a good Catholic education, and good Catholic foundation, just like the mayor did. But that's about it as far as my education went. And then I got married and still continued to live in Beverly, which was very, very nice.

And how I got into politics really was quite by accident. A friend of mine was working a campaign for Cullerton and asked me if I would help him. And so that was in 1966, which I did. And it turned out to be just great. Loved every minute of it. Loved all the people that were there. And at that time, it was kind of a stepping off start for young lawyers like Tom Tully, Tommy Hynes, Neil Hartigan. I can't remember all of them, but basically that was it.

So after that campaign, I was to go and work in the assessor's office, which P.J. Cullerton was, at that time, the assessor. But then Neil Hartigan and asked me if I would work for the mayor's campaign. That's how I got involved in that. It was at 333 North Michigan, were the headquarters. But then we got involved with the big snowstorm of '67, so there wasn't much work because of the snowstorm, and the mayor couldn't be there, couldn't be out campaigning. But anyway, he won.

After he won, Neil called me one day and said the mayor would like to interview you. I said, what? [*Laughs.*] This can't be real. Come down to the office. So I went down to the office and he said yes, he said, he really said that. He would like to talk to you. I said okay. So I went into his inner office and waited for four hours. [*Laughs.*] That's how crazy it was. He had just won the election and changes were being made all over the place. But anyway, I didn't have anything else to do, so what else? So then his secretary came out and said he wondered if you could come back tomorrow. I said sure. I'm not going to say no to the mayor.

So anyway, I came back the next day, and I don't know how long I waited at this point. But anyway, he said that he was making changes in his immediate office and would like me to be part of it. So I said oh yes, of course. Exciting. But anyway, I started May 1st, '67. And then when I went into the office, this lady here, Bess O'Neill was sick, so I sat at her desk for two weeks until she came back.

Now this is all in the inner office, not the outer office, the inner office. So then when she came back, they said you're going to go out and work for the deputy mayor for two weeks, which was very good. So then I worked for all the assistants, one week here, one week there, because I really didn't know much about city politics at all. And so then his one secretary, Dolores Fitzgerald, does that name ring a bell?

Q: No.

Kay: She was his secretary. Dolores Fitzgerald and Mary Carney were his two secretaries at that time. And neither one of them really wanted the job. They thought it was too hard, too consuming. And Mary had aging parents that she had to get home to every night. You couldn't do that sort of thing. But they stayed until September.

And in September, he called me and said that he was bringing a gal down from Urban Planning. Did you ever hear the name Lew Hill? She had worked for Lew Hill. It was Kay Spear. So that's how Kay came in, and that was in September of '67. And so then there was another lady, Mary Beth Cusak, that name? She was there for a while. But then Kay said the mayor felt there were too many people in that inner office, so I thought, well, I'm going to go, but I stayed and Mary Beth went.

So then it became Kay and Kay. That's how it became Kay and Kay. She was taller than me, and they'd always refer to us as Big Kay and Little Kay. [*Laughs.*] And we stayed together until the mayor died, which was in '76, so those were great times. And we knew everything about that office. We knew all. One thing about it, too, we never changed. A lot of commissioners were always the same, were always there, so we just got to know everybody, and knew him.

But as far as every day went, he would get there at 8:00, the mayor. Would go to St. Peter's to church. Sometimes he would stop and have breakfast. Nine times out of ten, no. Or get his shoes shined or something. But we would get there at 8:00, too, and we would get the schedule ready for the day and kind of look at the newspapers to see what happened, because every day was a new day. You never knew.

And we always had set appointments. And so when he hit that back door, you could count the number of steps till he got to his desk and buzzed. That's how it was. And of course it was, from then on, very, very busy. But one thing we did, which was good, was at 10:30 we had press conference. But maybe we wouldn't have a press conference, so that would ease up the time to catch up.

Thursday and Friday in the afternoons we never scheduled. That was kind of like quiet time. Because he had all this correspondence and letters. He signed everything. And he was also chairman of the Public Building Commission, so we had all kinds of contracts to sign there. So there was just a lot of that going on all the time.

Of course scheduling was terrible. [*Laughs.*] We had two girls in the back who would keep a chart, keep records of everything, all the invitations by the date. And then once a week Kay would try and get in to ask him, are you going, are you not. Anything that had to do with a big speech we would ask him right away if he would do that, because people had to know if they had to have a speaker.

And then, of course, everybody wanted to get in to see the mayor. Everybody. And we had pink sheets. They were four by six. And everybody knew that those were the mayor's sheets. They didn't have anything to do with them. When we would get an appointment request, we would fill it out and give it to him. Sometimes he put yes, sometimes he would put hold, sometimes he would put a question mark. Sometimes he would put right away. It got so that we knew.

Jim Thompson, I remember, called one day and said I have to see him. He was at federal court, and he said I think it should be very soon. So I typed it all up and gave it, and he said oh yeah, get him in here right away. People like that you knew that he would see right away. And so

scheduling was one big—not a headache, but everybody wanted him to be there, everybody wanted to see him.

Once a month he would say let me see who wants to see me, so we would give him these pink slips. And he would say okay. He put okay, okay, okay. And we would schedule these five minutes apart. Exactly five minutes apart. And then if they were over five minutes, we would bring in the next slip to him and say, you know. And he'd look at us and say, "Oh, we're running behind." We're running behind, aren't we? Which means get out of here. And some of them just wanted to talk and talk and talk.

And then one day a week we had picture appointments. That was generally on Tuesday. And that came out of the PR office. And a picture appointment could be somebody from out of town. Maybe Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, things like that, the Irish Fellowship, the queen. He liked doing that. But that came out of the PR office. They would arrange that. We would just give them the time.

And that's where Laszlo Kondor always came in. And then if there was something going on, the mayor would say, "Get Laszlo down here." Am I saying his name right? Yeah. Bring him down here. So he was in and out of our office a lot. And he would go with the mayor when the mayor would go to something like a luncheon or something. He would go with him to take pictures.

But the mayor very, very seldom went out to lunch. He would say—it got to be maybe quarter to 12:00, 12:00—I'm going across the street, which meant Democratic headquarters. So we would call over there and say he's on his way. And Mary Mullen would say okay, I got his tuna fish sandwich or whatever. He liked tuna fish. And so he went over there for lunch.

And we never went out for lunch. Never, ever. A lot of times we would bring something or somebody would go out and get us something. So we'd be hardly taking a bite out of something and he'd be back. And Mary would call. She'd say, he's on his way. And this must have been maybe half hour or 45 minutes. He was right back in that office. So it was just a constant, constant, and going on all the time.

A couple of days, maybe once or—depending on the elections, he would go over to Democratic headquarters and meet with the committeemen. But that was just when there was a big election going on. But there was always something going on in the city. There was always a riot. There was always something going on. And so you never, ever knew what... You'd think, oh, it's going to be a peaceful day today, I'm going to do this, that and the other thing. You couldn't do it because it was something different.

When he would come in on Saturday, he would try and get caught up with his mail. We worked every other Saturday, depending on his schedule. And that's when he would, as I say, get caught up with the mail. And he would have stacks of mail, correspondence. And he'd just like kind of not fling it at you, but toss it to you, and you'd be writing give to so-and-so with a request for an answer for me. So you would have all of this. Sometimes he would dictate something, and you would be doing this all on the correspondence because you just didn't have time to get a book and write it. So that was what we would do on Saturday.

Depending, again, on what he wanted to do, we might work all day, we might work till noon. And if there was a school strike, you work until midnight. We used to have these school strikes. They'd meet in our office and they would have those, so we would have to be there until, I don't know, hours.

But you just couldn't leave. We wouldn't ever, ever leave the office when the mayor was there, never. No matter if it was 6:00 or 6:30, we would stay around and wait for him to leave. So that was the... [*Laughs.*] Does that confuse you?

Q: It sounds tiring. [*Laughs.*]

Kay: It was tiring. You got so, as I say, you knew what you were doing. But he was one that never stopped, never took a day off. I recall one time I was walking from the train, from the Rock Island, and one of the lawyers worked in the corp counsel's office and he said, "Oh, it's going to be an easy day for you today." And I said, "Oh, is it?" It was a Friday. He said, "Oh, yes, the mayor's out of the city." I said, "Oh, is he?" So anyway, we got to the office and the mayor was there. And who was the first one he called? The guy from the corp counsel's office. He said, "See, you didn't even tell me, did you?" [*Laughs.*]

But if he thought that they were getting into a routine that he wasn't going to be there, he would change it. He would go another day. He would go earlier, he'd come in later. So that's the way he controlled. But when the mayor was in the office, everybody in the City Hall knew he was in his office. And if he wasn't there, they knew that he wasn't there. But his presence was just so dominant that they knew, somehow knew that he was there. But basically that's what we did.

Q: Now, the city council meetings, did you have duties attached to that?

Kay: No. The city council meeting, we could hear what was going on in the council. We had—I don't know what it was. Not a microphone, but some kind of a thing that recorded, and we could hear it upstairs, so we were aware of what was going on all the time. City Council day we wouldn't

schedule because—like Alderman Keane would come up. Some of the aldermen would come up and they would meet with the mayor.

And then when they would have a quorum they would call us upstairs and say we have a quorum. So then the mayor would go down. So we never knew, again, how long that would last. A lot of times it went long after lunch. But we had the recording so we knew what was going on, which was a big, big help. But no, the Law Department handled all that, the city council meetings and everything. It was crazy!

The mayor was really something because we worked for him a long time and he never, ever really bawled us out for anything. You'd make mistakes. We had somebody that could write letters, like thank you letters for this, that or the other thing, and he would sign them, but if he didn't like the tone of the letter he'd scratch it out and then he'd call you in and say do this, that or the other thing. Didn't like the tone of it.

He always signed everything in green ink. And he signed millions of his autograph pictures. He would sign all of those personally. If it was for a precinct captain—they loved precinct captains. We had a lot of precinct captains. They would love to get those pictures of the mayor. So we would put would you please autograph to blah-blah-blah precinct captain in the whatever ward, and he would put their name on there, and to a great precinct captain. So he would sign that. They loved getting those. And that took up a lot of time, too.

[*Pause.*]

Kay: We became very, very good friends. We were almost like sisters.

Q: Oh, really?

Kay: She had a great sense of humor, which you needed. And somebody would call and say the mayor told me to ask for Kay to get an appointment. And I would say to Kay, “They want Big Kay.” [*Laughs.*] She didn’t know they want Little Kay. But she was just... She worked hard, she was smart. She really took over that office. And a couple people later on, when we were gone, said that was really a well run office at that time, so that was nice to hear.

And then of course in the back we had all these administrative assistants—Neil Hartigan, Dave Stahl. Who else was there? There was a black guy there. I can’t think of his name right now. Neil took care of the liquor commission. That was his job. So that was a big job. Dave Stahl was kind of like the mayor’s assistant. Did you ever hear his name?

Q: Mm-hmm.

Kay: But he left. I don’t know what happened. Bob Christiansen. Did you ever hear that name?

Q: Yes.

Kay: He was deputy mayor. He then went over to PBC, became chairman of the Public Building Commission. Hartigan was never deputy mayor. Christiansen was. I think Stahl was, and Kenny Sain. Ken Sain, did you get him?

Q: Yes, we have his interview.

Kay: He was a great guy. He was there when the mayor died, of course, and took over then. But all those administrative assistants had their own jobs to do. And we had three or four girls in the back that would record the invitations and things like that, journal correspondence. A lot of times there were just routine letters, so they would do that.

Oh, I forgot all the mail we used to get. [*Laughs.*] I forgot that. All of the mail came through the front desk. The officers would open it unless it was marked personal, and then they would bring it back to us to open. And then they would leave the mail on my desk and I would read it and I would route it to the various departments.

And we had these routing slips with all the commissioners' initials, and then three columns of please note or please reply for my signature, please reply, send us a copy of your letter for our file, so that way you'd have track of everything that was going on. And we would get the mail twice a day. And so that kept us pretty busy. The mail was a big part of the job.

And of course the phone calls. Kay would take his private number phone calls and I would take the other two numbers. And in the back, in his little anteroom, there was another phone that was really a very private, private number, and only the mayor would give out that number. People like the cardinal had it, LBJ had it, but that's the only two I remember.

I remember Rosalynn Carter calling on my line one day. I knew it was her voice. So I said are you—he was running for President. She said, oh yes. She was very nice. But sometimes the phone never stopped. And then of course you knew who the mayor would talk to, and then he would call out a lot and say—in fact when we'd get there in the morning he'd give you a list of people—call, call, call, call, call. And so if you missed one, he'd buzz and say what happened to...? [*Laughs.*] Oh, he's going to call back.

So as I say, though, you just got used to doing it. It was kind of routine with the two of us. We got to know one another. We kind of read one another's minds. But it was fun.

Q: You spent a lot of time together, didn't you?

Kay: We did. And unfortunately, she got sick and passed. It was a shame because she was one of these decent, decent people that you just don't meet. And the thing about it was everybody got along. I mean, nobody talked about anybody, and nobody bickered. I don't remember any of that. Of course we were so busy we really didn't have time for a lot of it anyway.

Sometimes something would come up and, you didn't know that? Of course I didn't know that. But yeah, we did, we spent a lot of time together, in the office and then socially, too, after that. And there was—well, those three ladies, and then did you ever hear the name Marion Harris?

Q: Mm-hmm.

Kay: Her mom was the first woman that came out to support the mayor, and so they were very, very close. And I think that Marion always wanted my job. But we became very, very good friends. We were all good friends. Which was very nice.

As I say, there was no bickering or fighting or any of that. They knew their jobs and we knew ours. And of course with the mayor, he always said next time is your turn. And he never hurt anybody by...like with Marion, she had a sister in the city council, was secretary of the council. She got very sick and then he called Marion in—and we knew she was dying—called Marion in and asked her if she would like to become secretary of the council, and Marion said yes, so it worked out fine.

When different groups would come into the city, they always wrote and asked if they could have somebody come over and greet them. And the mayor would do a lot of that. He'd be in and out, like zip out, go to a hotel and come back, maybe half hour or so. And he liked doing that,

welcoming to the city and so on. But if he couldn't do it, Kenny Sain would do it.

Ken Sain was just great. And in fact one time he came in the office and he was laughing, and he said, did you get over there? He said yes. But he went to the wrong group. [*Laughs.*] He welcomed them and said how great Chicago was, and the mayor, it's too bad he couldn't be here, and so on and so forth. So when he was leaving he said, well thank you for letting us know when you come back, and the fellow said, "We didn't ask for anybody, but we're so happy you're here." [*Laughs.*] So then poor Ken Sain had to go around and find out where else the other party was so he could go there. But it was just good that, you know, things like that that he would do.

Another thing the mayor did all the time was we always had to have wakes, wakes and funerals on the schedule. Marion Harris's job was to read the obits every day and the death notices every day, and if she saw a precinct captain, she would send up a note saying that so-and-so died, and all the information about where he was being waked and so on and so forth. And then the mayor would decide if he would get a mass card or if he would go to the wake. He loved doing that.

In fact, he was many, like your black wakes and funerals, they don't get there on the time, so the mayor was there before the family even came. Come in the next day, "Nobody was there." And Kay would say, well, they're different time. [*Laughs.*]

But he loved going to the wakes of his precinct captains. His precinct captains meant a lot to him. And in fact in our file in the back we had a three by five card of all the precinct captains, by ward, and every year he would send them a Christmas card, which was nice. People enjoyed it, you know, liked having that. In fact I'm sure they still have them.

On St. Patrick's Day he always sent cards to fellows or men that he knew were in the Army. He would send them a St. Patrick's Day greeting, which was a good thing. So it kept us busy.

Q: So you were responsible, then, for making sure all those cards, all that correspondence, was done properly?

Kay: Well, Marion sort of was. When one of the precinct captains died she'd come out and pull their card out and tear it up. But we were more or less responsible for making sure it got on the schedule—that he would go. And then of course when he was running, he'd be here, there, all over the place because everybody wanted him. He'd make all the wards and their ward meetings and so on. But it was fun.

Q: So you were in the office for two elections?

Kay: Let's see, in '67 I was over at the headquarters, and then '71 I was there, and '75 I was there. And then in '75 he had a headquarters over at the Sherman. So he called me in and he said I think I'm going to send you over there. You know all about campaigning and how to keep peace. [Laughs.] So he said, you know. So I went over there with Mary Mullen, and she was over at Democratic headquarters, so the two of us worked together on that campaign, which was great. We set up various meetings. Very seldom would he come over there. Maybe once in a while he'd pop in.

We had all the literature over there, and we'd send it out to the wards, things like that. We always had committeemen coming in, and the precinct captains would come in and ask for—they always wanted material and stuff, so that was good. And then we would have mailings, direct mailings. It was amazing the people that would come after work and help, and type out labels and envelopes, and get those out.

And then of course he won the primary. That was Singer that year. Yeah, that was Singer. He won that primary. And then Tom Donovan you got his interview, didn't you?

Q: Yes.

Kay: Tom was kind of his assistant. And Tom called me and said you have to come back to the office tomorrow. I said, oh, do I? After the primary. So I said, well, okay. After the primary was over I was going to go back to the office. I said to John—John worked with us. John and Mary Lou, his wife. They weren't married, but they worked with us. And I said to John, when you're having dinner tonight with your father—kidding him—when you're having dinner tonight with your dad, ask him if I can stay over here. He did.

So then that night I got a call from Tom Donovan. He said I don't know what happened, but go back to headquarters in the morning. So I went back until the general election in April, and then I went back to City Hall. But it was nice. There were a lot of nice people that went there every day to work. Rose Farina. Did you ever hear of Rose Farina?

Q: Yes.

Kay: She was one of them that would come in. She called me up right away and she said I've worked a campaign, could I come in and help you? I said sure, Rose, come in and do whatever you want. Well, she would answer the phone, was the receptionist, did everything. Loved doing it. And then of course after the campaign was over she became, you know, with special events, which was good, because she was good. I liked Rose. We had a good friendship, too. But that's it. Have I out-talked you?

Q: Oh, no, not at all. I want to go back a little bit. Let's just start with the first thing that I'm interested in. I know from other interviews Richard J.

Daley, he didn't take notes, did he? I mean, his memory was all up here, and then would he just tell you, and you would dictate?

Kay: When he would dictate, he would...once in a while I would have my book, but not a lot, when he'd say I'm going to give you some notes or something. But not a lot. He would just give you the piece of correspondence and you'd write on the correspondence what he wanted to say.

Yeah, I can tell you that's very true because after he died, Michael said would you clean out my dad's desk, would you stay and clean out my dad's desk? It was Christmas. And we said sure. So you know what he had? Mass cards. You know what a mass card is, Catholic mass card or mini mass card? He had a big...maybe 100 mass cards. That's all we could find in his desk. Anything else just wasn't there.

Every night when he went home, he would take all his correspondence with him. He would put it in briefcase. He'd take it home with him. I don't know if he ever did anything with it. So therefore, there was nothing in his drawers. And we did have, in our office, we had a little anteroom that had files in it. A lot of those files were personal. But still not that many.

No, he never took notes. Never. It was amazing how he remembered. How he remembered things. But no, we cleaned out his desk. They didn't want the press to see the desk going out. You could see it, see that, so they asked us if we would stay, and we said sure. But that's all that I remember gleaning from that desk was those mass cards. Interesting.

Q: What are your memories of when he died that day in December?

Kay: Oh, my gosh. Well, the night before it had snowed, and the next morning—it was Sunday night, and then Monday morning Colonel Riley had arranged, you probably know, the breakfast for all the department

heads. And of course he always included Kay and myself. So it was at the Bismarck, and we went over there. And I remember he had a harpist, which was most unusual, too. It was such a lovely, lovely breakfast.

Colonel Riley came in and said I wish these people would get here because the mayor's called twice about coming in. But it had snowed the night before and the commissioners were out. So finally enough people were there and the mayor and Mrs. Daley came. And we had a real nice breakfast, and he got up and thanked everybody. And the commissioners had went together and got him a trip to Ireland.

So after the breakfast was over, he came around and shook hands with everybody, wished everybody and their families a happy holiday, and then when he got to Kay and myself he said I guess we have appointments at the office. In other words, get back. So we all left, went back to the office, and worked. And he was going out to the 11th Ward to shoot baskets for Alderman Vrdolyak.

And he came out—I'll never forget—he came out in the back door, the entrance, and he said, "I'm leaving now." And he said, "I don't think I will be back today." So he said, "Do you have your Christmas shopping done?" And we said no. And he said, "Well, now you can go."

He gave a lot of gifts away at Christmas. This was the first year I can say that we were really ahead of the game. Everything was all set. He used to give the guys ties, and they had their name on, they were all packaged and everything. So anyway, he said then you can do whatever—you can go shopping. So anyway, Kay said, well, I'm going to run across the street to get a cup of coffee, and when I come back, you can go.

And in the meantime—oh, this was another thing he said to me. He came out and he said, "Did we send some flowers"—he used to send a lot of

poinsettia plants. He said, “Did we send some flowers to Dr. Coogan’s nurse?” And I said no. He said, “Would you do it?” And I said sure. I called them up and said please deliver these flowers to—had her address and everything.

So anyway, Kay went across the street and she came back. So she said, “Do you want to go now?” And I said, “Okay, I’ll just get some coffee and come back and get my coat and I’ll go to Field’s.” She said, oh, good. So I went downstairs and I saw Jimmy Dalton there, one of the detail guys, and I said, what are you doing here? Because he was driving. And he said, oh, he said, the mayor’s going up to Dr. Coogan. I said, oh, is he? He said, didn’t you make the reservation? Because we always did. And I said no. And I thought, hmmm. I got kind of concerned.

So anyway, I went across the street, came back upstairs, and Tom Donovan was at the desk, the first desk there, and Kay was there, and they were both standing, just not saying anything. So Tom said, “Katie, when you take off your coat I want to talk to you.” And I thought he wants me to buy him something. So anyway, I went over, and he said, “I have to tell you the mayor had a heart attack.” I said, “What?” And he said yeah. And I said, oh—I remember saying this, “Lots of people have heart attacks. He’ll be all right.” I was so, you know.

So then Kay said to me, “The detail is with him and they said that they would call us as soon as they know something.” Well, it got longer and longer and longer, and about 45 minutes passed, and Kay said, “Oh, it doesn’t look good.” And then Bobby Tunney from the detail called and said that he had died. He’s the one that told us. He said... Tunney was a great kidder, and he said, “This time I’m really not kidding.” We felt so bad for Tom, that he had to tell us that.

Then, of course, the press. Earl Bush had died, right? You didn't interview him? He was a great guy. He came down. And all the press and everybody was there. Then they announced that he had passed away. I guess Dr. Coogan went out of the office to call and make arrangements for him to go to the hospital and he just collapsed. But you know, what a great way to go. What a great way. That's what they all said, too.

And that changed the complexion of everything then. They had to get ready for the funeral. It was just...it was terrible. And we closed the front door to the mayor's office and they had a book there everybody could sign if they wanted to. They could sign the book of condolence.

So then the next day was the wake. Of course Tom Donovan and all of them were pall bearers. And he was waked at Nativity. So we went out in the afternoon and we were just waiting in line, you know. It was mobbed. So somebody came along and said, oh, come with us. So then we went up and sat with the family, which was very nice. And then the next day he was buried.

I remember Carter being there. I remember it being so cold, so cold. We could not get into the church because they had to sweep it for Carter. Finally it all came together. And when we went into church, everybody kind of just got a seat because there were so many people there. And Cardinal Cody said the mass, of course. And we were over on the side. There are two center aisles and two side aisles, and we were over on the side.

And it was just about ready to start, and Bill Daley was standing in the center aisle, and looking around, looking around, and finally somebody said, "He's looking for you." And he's looking at us going... So anyway, Kay and myself got up. And Mary Mullen had been with the family earlier, so she was up in the front.

And we were with Bud Sullivan. Did you know Bud Sullivan? Okay, he's another great guy. We were with Bud Sullivan. So Bud came with us then. So afterwards he laughed. He said, they weren't calling for me, they were—[laughs]—but thanks. Which was very nice, as everybody said. It was very nice that they brought you up front then.

But that was a hard, rough time for everybody, everybody involved. And so then, of course, it was Christmas. We had a million Christmas cards. And then, on top of that, we had a million mass cards, you know, these mass cards that people send. We had bags and bags and bags of those.

So every weekend we'd work Saturday and Sunday trying to straighten it all out. And people would send money, so you had to straighten all of that out. And finally we—and then I think Michael took it out to the 11th Ward and they sent thank you notes out for everything, as best they could. The family, of course, thanked everybody.

And then—the day after the funeral—no, it must have been the following week. Mrs. Daley invited us out. She invited Commissioner Quinn, and the police commissioner, and myself and Kay, and the administrative assistants, some of those, which was very nice. She said I know the mayor always gave you a gift, so she gave us the gifts.

Then the day after that, after he was buried, Ken acted as mayor, Ken Sain, and he gave ties out to the commissioners and everybody we had a tie for. The mayor would—Democratic headquarters, Mary Mullen would do it. They were silk ties, and on a little label in the back it had R.J. Daley. Of course everybody wanted a tie. Maybe 200 ties we would give out, like to the press and people like that.

And for the secretaries and the PR office and special events, and Inquiry & Information—that was an information office—he would give us all a gift,

like it might be a place setting, linen place settings. One year he gave umbrellas—things like that. But he would call everybody in and shake hands. Give them the gift, shake their hand and thank them. And so Ken Sain did that the day after the mayor died, which was, again, sad.

And then...what else was I going to say about that? We went out to Mrs. Daley's, which was very nice. She's so gracious. I forget what I was going to say. But anyway, it was a very, very... I still thought he'd come out of it. Oh, people always have heart attacks, he'll be okay. And I can still see him. I'm leaving for today, now you can go shopping. You have your shopping done? No. So, I mean, it was just...

He looked great. He looked good. But apparently he was having a problem. He did go out, though, to the 11th Ward. First he went over across. They had ice sculpting there at the plaza. Tom Donovan walked him over there. They looked at that. Then they got in the car and went out to the 11th Ward, and then he came back to go to Dr. Coogan.

Oh, I know what it was. Dr. Coogan's nurse called me the next day and she was crying her eyes out. And she said when she got home the poinsettia plant was there from the mayor. And I said, oh. She said she felt so terrible. So things that people, you know, don't know, don't realize what a good...what he thought about everything and everybody.

So those were sad days. Sad, sad days. But they were happy days too. They were happy days for us. Everybody talks about all the fun we had and all the friends we met. It just was good.

Q: You know, I want to go backwards a little tiny bit. So when you started, that was a really turbulent time in the city's history.

Kay: Oh, terrible.

Q: I'm thinking about the beginning of the time that you worked for Richard J. Daley and the end. Was it very different? And what was it like when the city was really in all this uproar?

Kay: Well, that year we had the West Side fires, and they were burning everything down on the West Side. And of course all of our men were out there trying to control it. I remember working because of the phone calls we would get from people. They didn't have any food, they didn't have any place to sleep, they didn't have this.

And you'd try and do your best to—I would give it to Earl Bush. He would come in and say, what are the phone calls like? And I would tell him. And if it was really a bad place where children were involved, we'd try and send out help. But no, that went on for—that West Side fire went on for quite a while.

I remember Commissioner Quinn, somebody said you have to let them in the fire houses because there's beds there, they can sleep. He said, they're killing my men. I'm not letting them in to sleep. *[Laughs.]* But anyway, it was a very, very bad time. That whole summer was very bad. And we had a lot of, it seems like, fire, unrest.

And then of course we went into the '68 convention, which was awful. After the '68 convention, everybody was against us, the police, and everybody nationally. And nobody had a good word for the mayor. Nobody had a good word for the city. But after a while, it got better, it was okay.

The time of the Democratic Convention, when I think of it, everybody was coming in wanting to see the mayor—your senators, your this your that, from all over, all over. And we were getting these people, and the mayor would see them. And then they turned on him. And the parks. They said

the parks have to close at 11:00. And these hippies were in the parks. And then, of course, they were breaking windows all over. It was just a mess. But like that, we worked.

Labor Day weekend was right after the convention. I remember the mayor coming out. The day after all of this happened I remember bringing the papers into him, and I remember saying, oh, I'm so sorry what happened, it's terrible, and so on. He said, "Tomorrow, Kay, it's going to be old news." I remember him saying that, and I thought, oh boy, how can you...? But that's true, it was.

But that week he came out then. And there again we were getting mail. Mail, mail. And so he said, well, I just want you all to go home now and have a nice, easy weekend and forget about everything. So we did.

I remember Monday morning was Labor Day. I went over to my mother's and we were talking, we had breakfast and so on and so forth. And when I got back to the office on Tuesday, Ray Simon said to me—corp counsel—he said, "Where were you yesterday?" I said, "I was out, why?" He said, "I called you in to work and you weren't home." I said, "Oh, wasn't I lucky?" But they came in and wrote that book, *What Seeds do They Plant*. That's what they were doing that weekend. The Law Department.

It was a crazy, crazy time. There again, as I say, we had mail. Pros, cons, you know, and everything. So anyway, there again he called me in and he said we have all these bags of mail, and I understand there's a lot of money in there, so would you go up? He said I'll send some ladies up there. Marion Harris was with me. He said, the two of you go through all that mail and sort it. Take the money out and we'll do something with the money later on, which we did. That took about a week to do all of that.

Q: What was the money allotted for?

Kay: They'd just send it because they felt sorry and thought that we could use it. People send money for anything. Maybe five, ten dollars. It was all in small denominations. I bet we got over \$2,000. And then I forget what they did with it. They gave it to some charity or something. But you had to keep it all separate.

And then we had to write a little—we'd send a little note again, thank you for your help and whatever. I forget what was said, but we had to send those out. We were always sending out something. It was a lot of work, when I think about it now. But it wasn't work. You did it. You were glad to do it. But no, those were very, very bad days for us.

We did go to the convention the first night. Lucky to get there. Almost did not because of everybody that was there. They wouldn't let you in. And it was just... And of course it was all over television, all over television.

The next morning I remember I thought, oh, I better get there early. So I did. When I walked into the office about 7:30, one of the policemen said, "Boy, am I glad to see you. The phone has never stopped." The phone never stopped ringing. People saying, you know, we're with you, we're against you. You'd get, oh boy. But it was really hectic.

And the poor mayor, you know, they just dragged him down and wanted all kinds of press conferences. But Earl Bush was great in handling that. He really took over. But there again you live through it and it became old news. I always remember him saying it will be old news tomorrow, Kay. Don't concern yourself with it. What? *[Laughs.]*

But I'm sure it bothered him. He just didn't want his city to be torn apart like that. And not only that, but they never said he was right. They never said. And a lot of times he was. What they did to our hotels. They put stuff in the pipes and everything. There was a ladies luncheon that we were

scheduled to go to. You couldn't go because they had put this in the pipes, whatever it was, stink bombs or something. And the whole luncheon was bombed out. So it was really a bad time.

Q: Was there extra security in City Hall then at that time?

Kay: Not that I was aware of. Up in our office there was tighter security. And another thing they realized that they had to do was get black people. So we did have a couple of good black policemen up there. But no, his detail was so good. They were really, really on the ball. And we knew how to work with them. But I don't recall that there was extra security there then. Probably.

Q: Did you have difficulties getting to work? You said you took the Rock Island. The streets, were they charged with people?

Kay: It was all downtown. It was all down at the Hilton and Grant Park. And then they would move up to Lincoln Park at night. And then when they started breaking windows on Michigan Avenue is when the merchants really got concerned about it, this is not good. So then they realized that they were out to do no good. But no, I didn't have any trouble getting down.

And then Kay...where was she...? Oh, she was going to try and get out to the convention, but she couldn't, so she went on to...she stayed at the Hilton that night, thinking I better get a room someplace so I can get to the office in the morning. So she stayed at the Hilton that night, and she saw a lot of it, a lot of what went on there. But no, it was bad. It was crazy. But the poor mayor. My poor mayor. [*Laughs.*] So what else?

Q: Well, as far as the everyday working of the office, you've done a great job. Thank you for describing that. Were there any sort of nagging or persistent issues that you thought, oh dear, here we go again? We talked

about the mail and the money. Was there something else that was reoccurring that was an issue?

Kay: I don't really think so. I think we handled it kind of...you realized that every day was a new day, and you had your usual pests every day that would call, you know? We had one lady that would come and sit all day long out in the receptionist and just hoping that she would see the mayor. She didn't have anything else to do.

What did we have, a dinner one time, and she wanted to go to the dinner. And I felt bad for her because you just couldn't give her a ticket or something. So she came in the next day and she said, "Well, I got in that dinner." I said, "Oh, you did? How did you get in?" "I merged in with the Shannon Rovers," says she. [*Laughs.*]

But people like that. You know, you felt bad for them. I know the policemen had their daily, daily nuisance. They were there every day and wanted, wanted, wanted. But they kept them out of our office.

After the convention, then they put up a door between the front—well, there was a front desk here and then there was a hallway, and then into our office. And between at that hallway and going into our office they put in a door and put a button under my desk that if I saw anybody coming in, if they got past the guard, I could hit a button, and that would shut them out.

And I did it a couple of times. And then it got funny. I'd do it for the detail. [*Laughs.*] And so eventually the mayor said take down that door. He didn't want it. He didn't want to be, really, that isolated ever.

And our office, the visitors would wait in our office. It was a big office, and it was my desk, Kay's, and then along one wall were the chairs. Kay said to him one time, does the noise ever bother you, people out there talking? He said no. He liked it that way. But it was funny. You'd get

some of the people who didn't get along. One would sit at this end and one would sit at that end. [*Laughs.*] Yeah, and you knew that they didn't like one another. That's what they would do.

But you got so you knew people, and you knew who would come in and would go out very quickly. And you knew who he would see. And then on Saturday morning—he loved coming in on Saturday morning, and he would give you a list of people to call. And I would call them, and nine times out of ten I got them out of bed. “The mayor's looking for you.” “Oh, my god, I'll call him back.” And then of course the next thing I knew they might be downtown and in the office. But I think he kind of enjoyed doing that, getting them out of bed. [*Laughs.*]

I don't know how they always found out that he was there on Saturday, because immediately they'd be there. And then of course our administrative assistants, they would always come in on Saturday. A lot. A lot of times they would play catch up, and so they would come in on Saturday. So there were always people around. But that was a good day to catch up.

And on Sunday he would come in a lot. But he never wanted us in on Sunday. But later on, after his illness that time with the carotid artery, he would take the weekends off, and so that was good. But no, he was a worker. He was a worker. Got a lot of work done. And he had all big business, you know. They were there wanting things, and he'd see them a lot.

Then of course he was chairman of the Building Commission, so he'd have to go to those meetings. That was a once a month meeting. But you got so you knew what he would go to and what he wouldn't, of course. But I can honestly say there was nothing that really irritated me or I was bored with.

Q: Do you have any memories of a specific VIP who came into the office, where there was a big to-do?

Kay: Harry Truman came in one Saturday. And he came in by himself. And he was staying over at the Sherman, I guess. Vince Leddy was the policeman's name at the desk, and he came back and he said to me, "You won't believe who's here." And I said, "Who?" He said, "Truman." I said, "Well, bring him in." Vince Leddy was sitting at the desk reading something, and Truman came in, had a cane, hit him on the head and said, "Young man, is your mayor in?" Is your mayor in? So of course the mayor was bring him in, you know, right away. But he was there. And of course, Teddy Kennedy. They were in and out.

Carter was there before he ran for President. And I remember it was a Monday morning, and on Monday mornings we had staff meetings, and all the department heads would be there. And here is Carter walking up and down. Kay said, well, we have a staff meeting this morning. Well, that's all right, I'll wait. And then his bodyguards were walking up and down. That was before he was President.

And Ronald Reagan's mother-in-law. Not Nancy. What was her name? I can't remember. She was married to Loyal Davis, the surgeon, you know. Anyway, she came in. Colonel Riley liked her. He thought she was a real gal. So he called down and he said I'm bringing her down now. Okay. She came down, and she had a coat on. But she opened the coat and she had all these Ronald Reagan buttons. She must have had 200 Ronald Reagans. Anyway, she went in and you could hear the mayor laughing at her. She was a real card.

And then she came out and she came over to my desk and she said to me, "Do you know Steve Kelly?" I said, "Of course I know Steve Kelly." And she said, "Would you get him on the phone for me?" I said sure. He was

over at the Park District. And Steve Kelly's father was Mayor Kelly, so there was a connection there. So she said to Steve, "Do you want to meet me for lunch?" And he must have said yes. She said, "The usual place, the Drake?" So they went over there. But she was a real comedian.

And of course we had Frank Sinatra. Frank Sinatra came in. He was very friendly with the Daleys. After the mayor died, he came in to see Mrs. Daley. The day Frank came in it got all around the Hall, so everybody was waiting at the doors to see Frank. Well, anyway, he got up to the 5th floor, and he has a rose. Somebody had given him a rose. So he handed me the rose. That was nice. Then he went in and talked to the mayor, came out, and I don't know what I did with the rose.

But John Wayne was nice. Perry Como was best. Perry was just adorable. He came and he went in, and he talked to the mayor, and then he came out and he talked to the fellows on the detail, and he came over and he sat, and he talked to us. Just really nice. John Wayne wasn't. One of the fellows asked for his autograph and he said, "I don't do that." Peggy Lee was nice. She was very, very nice. So we'd get all those, you know. When they were going through town they'd love to come in and see the mayor.

A lot of politicians, senators and people like that, when they came through, they would stop. I remember one time Senator Connelly, the one that was with JFK, he called on a Friday, late Friday. His staff called and said that he would be landing in Chicago on the military—they always came in the military side—and he would like to come and see the mayor. So I said, well, I'd have to check with him and see. So anyway, I typed it all up and gave it to the mayor, and he looked at it, looked at it, looked at it. And then he came out and he said, oh, I guess I can put it on the schedule. I called them back and they gave me the times and everything.

So Monday morning the mayor came in and he said, “You know, I’ve decided not to see him.” Why, I don’t know. That was his business. So anyway, I called up his aides and I told them, and they said, oh, okay. Well, about a half hour later, the senator called me and said I understand your mayor is not... I said, no, I said something has come up and he just will not be able to. I think he was going out to meet him. He said, “Well, he should have known that on Friday, don’t you think?” And I said I don’t know. And he said, “Well, I don’t think this is very nice,” or something to that, and hung up.

Anyway, I went in and I said to the mayor, “Boy, that senator called, and he was really angry with me.” He said, “He was?” So I told him what happened, and he said, “Don’t worry about it.” So then he went out to lunch and he came back and he called me back in and he said, “What did he say to you?” So I told him. And he said, “Oh, half the world is angry. No reason why you should be.” And that was it.

But whenever they talked about Senator Connelly, I thought, I remember that guy. But for reasons you don’t know, why should he go out of his way just because he wanted him to? But most of them were not like that. They were very nice. I understand, you know. But yeah, we got them all. Teddy Kennedy was there. Prince—not Philip. His son. Who’s his son?

Q: Prince Charles.

Kay: Prince Charles. Oh, he came in with Bilandic. He came in when Bilandic was there. We had a very, very nice dinner for him, and he was very nice. Came along and said hello to everybody. Went down to the Mart. But he was very nice.

Then we always had to hear about the Democratic dinners. Those were fantastic. They used to take over, the Democratic Party took over the

Hilton, all the rooms. Must have been 1,500 people there. And they had a two-tiered seating platform. Everybody that was anybody was on that dais. And if you weren't anybody, if you were somebody and weren't up there, you'd get a little bit confused—not confused, but wonder why.

But every year in May we'd have one. And they were beautiful. Everybody loved to go to them. You'd meet your friends. And it was just all the Democratic Party was getting together. You'd have governors. We had the governor. It was really, really nice. So it was a big thing. And they—Marion [over] there, they were the ones that arranged that.

Q: So that was Marion and...?

Kay: Mary Mullen, Helen and Jerry that did that every year. That was their big thing. Well, not only that, but it made a lot of money for the party, which was important. So what else do you want to know?

Q: I'm thinking about just a couple more questions for you. So big events like St. Patrick's Day, or the parade, which was a big part of the history, and Christmas tree lighting in the city, do you have memories of any of those that you could share with us?

Kay: Oh, yeah, sure. St. Patrick's Day in the mayor's office was great. The mayor always came in, and he had his big Kelly green hat on, and he'd come in and he'd you know, say Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Then we had a Jewish man that just loved the mayor, so every St. Patrick's Day he would send in a big floral piece. One year it was an arch with flowers all around. Another year it was a bush with flowers, and every year it was a different floral piece. And the mayor could take...they were carnations, generally. The mayor could take the carnations off and give it to people, pin them on when somebody came in.

Then Colonel Riley always arranged for Aer Lingus to come in with potted plants. They'd come in in their uniform and everything, and they'd have a picture taken. And then he would stay there maybe an hour and go over to St. Pat's to mass. And then maybe he would come back and then go to the parade, but he didn't like to go with a lot of people for lunch. He never liked that sort of thing. But when it was time and they would say the parade's getting underway, we would tell him and he would go over.

And the parade, at that time, was during the week whenever St. Patrick's Day was held. And now they of course have moved it to the weekend. And then he would come back to the office. [*Laughs.*] He'd be back.

Then catering companies would—Hartigan, corned beef and cabbage, would send in sandwiches and the office would smell like a kosher deli. But anyway, they'd do that, you know. But it was a really, really nice day. But for us it was kind of a day of catching up, too, because he wasn't there, you know what I'm saying? But everybody would be out partying and drinking and so on.

Christmas—he loved lighting the tree over the Daley Plaza. He loved doing that. And it was always like maybe the second week of December. And when his grandkids got so he'd bring them there. Mrs. Daley always came down for that, I remember. It was really very nice. They had Christmas carolers, and Colonel Riley loved that, so we would all go to that.

As far as like a Christmas party, he wasn't big on that. I know a lot of the departments would have—of course you weren't supposed to be drinking in the Hall either, but they did. And I'm sure that they all had their individual Christmas. The offices all had their party. But as far as we're concerned, a Christmas party, we never had one. His party was giving out

the gifts and giving ties and things like that, and thanking people. That was his big thing.

And of course Christmas was, with the gifts, keeping track of everything was another thing, because we had to acknowledge everything. We would acknowledge everything. And he would even put P.S. on it. But no, he really enjoyed Christmas. He loved St. Patrick's Day. Loved St. Patrick's Day.

And going to church meant—he'd go to church every day. It meant a lot to him to go to church. And even before I went to work for him I would see him at mass because I used to go to St. Peter's all the time. And he'd always say hello to everybody. So that was really...

And later on Vince was...Vince came later, after I was there. He came later. And so...oh, that Vince, yeah. He was something else. [*Laughs.*] But no, he loved that. And it never bothered him if we were laughing or something, or having fun. It wouldn't bother him.

I remember one time I was working on some needlepoint, and I came back from lunch and Mary Mullen was there, and she said, "Let me see what you're doing," because she was a needlepointer, and I had it all over my desk, and he came out. The mayor came out and he said, oh, and he looked, you know. And I'm like uh-oh. He said, "No, that's all right." I mean, he was a common man that knew what was going on. He liked to hear you have fun. Of course he had all those kids, why wouldn't he? [*Laughs.*]

Q: Now, was his family in the office at various points?

A: Mrs. Daley very seldom came in. I always tell this story about her. She came in one time—I don't know where they were going—and she always said, "Where am I supposed to be?" And this one time she came in and

Mary was there. Mary and Mrs. Daley were very good friends. Of course they had been friends for—you know, she worked for him for so long. But anyway, Mary was there and we were all talking.

I don't know how we got talking about medicine. And Mrs. Daley said, "Throw away all those pills. They're not good for you. And take cod liver oil." You know to this day I take cod liver oil. I take cod liver oil. I always think of her. I say to Michael, I'm still taking that cod liver oil. She never bothered us about making reservations or making this, that or the other thing for her, never, ever.

The kids would come over. Not a lot. And I got real friendly with John because we worked together with Mary Lou, so we had a lot of fun there. And Bill. Bill was in our office because of Loretta, his bride. So he would come in. She worked in the back, so he would go back there in the back.

Q: What was her official function?

Kay: She worked for Dave Stahl, who was one of the deputies. And she was from the 11th Ward, and that's how they met—well, I think they met in the office, basically. She's very pretty, just a nice, nice gal. We loved Loretta. And I like Bill, too. We always said whatever went wrong, it's too bad, because both of them such great people.

Beautiful wedding. We all went to the wedding. She was Lithuanian. She was married out of the Lithuanian church. And their reception was at the Mayfair Hotel. Very, very nice. We had a lot of fun. She invited everybody from the office, you know, up on 5. Everybody went. We all had a great time.

But anyway, I always liked Bill, too. Bill was kind of a cutup. Maybe he's not like that anymore. You don't know? But he was kind of a cutup. He

was fun because he worked in special events for a while, too, with Steve Kelly.

Did you ever hear the name Mary Beth Doyle? She's my good friend. She lives in my building. That's how we met. She came in one summer to work and she was working on 5, and then she came in one day and said, "Oh, I think I'm going to go back to teach." I said, "Teach? That's dull." She said, "Do you think so?" I said, "Yeah, you can do that later on, but have some fun now."

Then Colonel Riley asked her to come and work for him, and then Steve Kelly came, and it was all over. [*Laughs.*] She's a great gal. Great friend. And loved the city and loved...you know, people like that you meet. To this day we're still very close. But she was kind of thrown in with the—she was their age, the Daleys' ages. But yeah, it was a great place.

Q: Now, one question about this photograph that you have here. I just want to make sure we get this on the record. So this is Secretary's Day?

A: Yes.

Q: Could you tell us just a little bit about Secretary's Day and what happened?

Kay: Secretary's Day is always in April. And the mayor always had a luncheon for secretaries. There again it was, of course, us, and then it was the PR office, and there was like maybe four girls, I want to say, in that office, Colonel Riley's office, which was about two or three, and then the Office of Inquiry and Information. There was quite a few. So it ended up maybe being 50 to 75 people.

This was the head table. And then see on the sides here? That's where everybody else sat, all along here. I don't know why you can't see

anybody. I do have pictures of it someplace. So everybody would go to this luncheon. And the mayor would always say...the press would come in and ask, you know.

Oh, Secretary's Day, that was another thing. He'd always say don't eat anything. They're going to catch you with your mouth open. He would always say that. So when they left, then... And he, of course, would get up and thank everybody. And he always said that the city couldn't go on without you, which was wonderful.

When it was somebody's birthday, we had a little—in the back they had a little coffee room, and they'd get cakes and stuff, you know. Ken Sain was the best. I remember one time it was Marion Harris's birthday, and he gathered everybody in this little room and was going on and on and on about Marion. She's standing there, and I'm looking at her, and I'm thinking oh my gosh. Finally she said, "Okay, Ken, enough." [*Laughs.*] "I've heard it all before." He was such a dear. But he could do that, you know. How important you were, and... [*Laughs.*] So we would do that. But yeah, there was...

It was a lovely luncheon. You got a nice corsage and a gift. And they all looked forward to coming to this luncheon. Yeah, it was fun. And the girl—well, Mary from Democratic headquarters was there. Shirley Klepatch, as I said, she came in with what's the mayor? What was his name? I can't even think of it. I'm talked out. But anyway, she left then right away and went out to California. But she had her time in, though, too.

And there was another lady there that I took her place for a while, Bess O'Neill. O'Neill was her name. She came in with Mayor Kelly. And she just left one day and that was it. She never came back. Although the mayor

kept her on for two or three years. It wasn't that he forced her out or anything. It was just that she had had it, I think.

Q: Did you stay on then for Bilandic's term? So how long were on the 5th floor then? What were the dates?

A: Sixty-seven to what, '77, '78, something like that. I worked for Jane, too. Jane and I were really good friends. When we were in the campaign together we were the only two females, so naturally you kind of stuck together. So we would go out to lunch. I liked Jane. We had a lot of fun together.

Then when the mayor won, he made her commissioner of weights and measures, consumers, so she was up here. She was a department head then and I was, you know. Not that that really mattered. We were still friends. I worked for her. She called me and asked me to stay on. And I was there for what, two years, year and a half, two years.

But she didn't like the idea that I was close to the Daleys so—she didn't tell me, somebody else said they were transferring me out. Which was great. It was good. It was time that I left, too. She didn't fire me or let me go from the city. I went to the back and worked for an administrative assistant.

And then Neil called me one day and asked me to work his campaign for Attorney General, which I did. I went to work for him for maybe a year in the AG's office. And there again I met the nicest people. I'm still friendly with them today. Did you ever hear of Ed Rosewell? He was the treasurer of Cook County. Anyway, he was looking for a secretary, and I thought oh, I've got to get back to the—because of my pension, I've got to get out of here. So that's when I went to work for him.

It was so, so different. I was used to working so hard, and getting there on time, and doing and doing. And that office was so relaxed. I couldn't believe it. [*Laughs.*] I could not believe how different it was. But it was fine. I did what I had to do. I got my time in. He was very good to me. He was the best hearted guy. And of course I had to go to federal court a couple of times on him, but I did that. And so it turned out fine. So I worked half for the county and half for the city, so that was good. It worked out fine, as I say.

Q: Did you prefer one over the other, working for the city or the county?

Kay: No, I think I preferred the city. I mean, just because of where I was and so on. But the county had the better pension plan. It was a little more stable than the... Well, I'm sure that the city probably did, too, but the county put in an additional 3% you could pay. Why they did that I never knew, but it really brought your pension up. It was great. But it worked out fine.

Q: So a long time in service.

Kay: Yes. And the AG's office was...I love those people over there. We had a lot of fun. But it was a different kind of group. As I say, I'm still friendly with the whole group of them today. We go out. I have city, county, and state people I'm visiting with, so it's fun.

But no, I think the years with the mayor. Sometimes it seems surreal, you know? And him, too, you know. I think did he really—was he really there? Because you really don't hear too much about him. And of course I think it's because of Richard M. being the mayor. I think that had something to do with it. But they—like Tom Hynes, and Tom Tully, and all of those young men, they were all good people, and smart. Did a good job. Wanted to do a good job. So that's it. Would you like some water?

Q: That would be great. Thank you so much, Kay.

Kay Quinlan

[End of recording.]